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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Materials Bureau  
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CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 12, 2000

John C. Browne, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Theodore J. Taylor, Project Manager  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Mail Stop A316  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR IN-SITU BLENDING DURING  
16-021(c)-99 INTERIM MEASURE ACTIVITIES  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
NM0890010515  
HRMB-LANL-00-006**

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

The New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous Materials Bureau (HMB) has reviewed your letter dated June 5, 2000 (ER2000-0245) regarding a request to allow in-situ blending of potentially reactive soils at Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 16-021(c)-99. HMB authorizes Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to conduct in-situ blending as part of the Interim Measure (IM) activities at 16-021(c)-99. As noted in numerous discussions between HMB and LANL staff, blending of this soil is needed to ensure personnel safety and is only being conducted in consultation with and with authorization from HMB. The scale of this activity is limited, as outlined below and in LANL's blending request letter, and is only allowed during the current IM activities.

All potentially reactive soils will be blended to an average concentration of below 5% by weight high explosives (HE). The blending involves the mixing of soil with concentrations equal to or greater than 5% by weight HE with adjacent non-reactive (<5%) contaminated soil. Blending shall occur in the outfall/pond area only. The maximum dimensions for the outfall/pond area as proposed in the request letter shall be of a length, width and depth of 58 x 23 x 5.5 feet respectively. An area of contamination (AOC) was delineated for the consolidation, segregation and staging of soils excavated during the current IM. However, blending of non-contaminated soil from within the rest of the AOC with contaminated soil from the outfall/pond area is not



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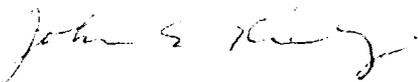
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allowed under this authorization.

All blended soils shall be considered formerly reactive D003 waste and shall be handled as D003 waste. The blending is a handling step for safety reasons prior to a composting-type treatment. All blended soil must be treated to meet Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) before land disposal. The area to be blended is specified above and shall not exceed the noted dimensions without prior consultation with and approval by HMB. Activities shall proceed as detailed in the request letter. Any deviation will require prior notification and approval by HMB.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012 or Eliza Frank at (505) 827-1558 extension 1048.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Manager  
Permits Management Program

JEK:eaf

cc: J. Bearzi, NMED HMB  
R. Dinwiddie, NMED HMB  
E. Frank, NMED HMB  
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J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS A316  
J. Canepa, LANL EM/ER, MS M992  
M. Kirsch, LANL EM/ER, MS M992  
D. McInroy, LANL EM/ER, MS M992  
File: Reading and HSWA LANL 3/1082/16/16-021(c)